

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and add claims 12-19.

Thus, claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found at least in paragraphs [0015] and [0025]. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over European Published Patent Application No. EP 0 929 027 A2 to Fishkin et al. (hereinafter "Fishkin") and claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fishkin. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Fishkin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Although the Office Action alleges that paragraphs [0142], [0145], and [0146] disclose bringing a finger or hand into a position relative to a physically manipulatable device, such an action only sends information to the personal computer 612. The action does not change any of the information stored about the user in the physically manipulatable device. Accordingly, Fishkin cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are thus patentable over Fishkin. Further claims 2 and 6 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 5 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fishkin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,265 to Woolston. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Fishkin discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the features of claims 3 and 7. Because, as discussed above, Fishkin does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claims 3 and 7, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,480 to Shintani in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,116 to Takagi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Both Shintani and Takagi fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. As the Office Action correctly recognizes, Shintani does not even disclose a physically manipulatable element capable of storing information (Office Action, page 4). Thus, Shintani cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Takagi fails to make up for this deficiency of Shintani.

First, Takagi does not disclose such a feature. Takagi discloses a buffer memory 22, that temporarily stores keystrokes of a wireless keyboard before transmission to a receiver unit 14 (C4/L7-18, C5/L6-50, and Figs. 1-3 and 5). That is, Takagi does not disclose using the memory to save any information about the user, only storing keystrokes so that they may be transmitted at a predetermined (e.g., slower) speed. As is consistent with the well-known operation of a buffer, the slower speed prevents the wireless signals from very quick

keystrokes from interfering with one another if they were sent directly from the keyboard 12 to the receiver unit 14. Accordingly, Takagi cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Thus, both Shintani and Takagi fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and in claims 2 and 6 that respectively depend from claims 1 and 5.

Second, the Office Action has failed to provide a motivation for modifying Shintani by the alleged teaching of Takagi. MPEP §§ 2142, 2143 state that a *prima facie* case of obviousness requires, among other things, "some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to the skilled artisan, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings." The Office Action alleges that Shintani may be modified "so the information about the user could be temporarily stored in a memory and the data stored in the transmission buffer are transmitted in the order of saving at the predetermined interval" (Office Action, page 5). However, the Office Action does not say why such a modification would be desirable. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation for making the alleged modification because it would only slow down the transfer of information, without the memory and buffer.

Because both Shintani and Takagi fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a method or device, wherein the object being placed on the physically manipulatable element changes the stored information about the user, as recited in claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and the Office Action has failed to provide a motivation for combining Shintani and Takagi, the rejection is improper. Applicants thus request withdrawal of the rejection.

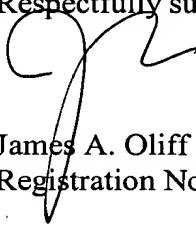
The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shintani and Takagi in view of Woolston and claim 11 over Shintani, Takagi, and Woolston in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,257,984 to Gershon. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

These rejections are premised upon the presumption that the combination of Shintani and Takagi discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the features of claims 1, 3 and 7. Because, as discussed above, the combination of Shintani and Takagi does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claims 1, 3 and 7, the rejections are improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 10, 2006

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